

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4912
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2001
ONION PRICES
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether onion prices are rising in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, details thereof and exact increase during the last two months;
- (c) whether the rise in price is due to hoarding of onion by blackmarketeers;
- (d) if so, action taken against these blackmarketeers;
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to provide onion at reasonable prices in domestic market; and
- (f) the steps taken to stop export of onion till prices became stable?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a) & (b): The open market retail price of onion indicate an increasing trend from the first week of August, 2001. Open market retail prices of onion, between June 18, 2001 and August 17, 2001 in 18 State capitals show increases ranging from 0.50 p. per kg. to Rs.4 per kg.

(c) & (d): No information has been received regarding hoarding of onion.

(e) & (f): Exports of onion have been placed under quantitative restrictions. Export quantities are being released only after assessing availability, crop prospects and prevailing domestic prices. For the year 2001-02, Government have permitted exports of 5 lakh tones of onions. Out of this, a quantity of 2.5. lakh tones has been released for exports upto August 31, 2001. After observing the price rise in the first week of August, 2001, exports of onion have been initially suspended for 15 days on August 7, 2001. The wholesale and retail prices of onions have stabilised thereafter. Open market prices are also being watched.